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Report to the Federal Communications Commission on Carrier Efforts Toward Attaining Digital TTY Accessibility, and the Status of the Various Technological Solutions, as Provided by CC Docket No. 94-102, In the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems

Public Service Cellular, Inc. ("Public Service") and Enterprise Wireless PCS, L.L.C. ("Enterprise") (together "the Companies"), by their attorneys, pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") *Fourth Report and Order* in CC Docket No. 94-102,¹ hereby file a Quarterly Report for the quarter ending June 30, 2002, detailing their efforts towards attaining digital TTY accessibility, and the status of the various technological solutions that will help them attain that goal. Public Service provides switching services for Enterprise and is also the Network Operating member of the L.L.C.

In the *Fourth Report and Order* the Commission established December 31, 2001 as the new deadline for carriers operating digital wireless systems to have obtained all software upgrades and equipment necessary to make their systems capable of transmitting 911 calls from TTY devices. It further established June 30, 2002 as the deadline for carriers to integrate, test and deploy the technology in their systems in conjunction with the public safety community. In order to be assured that the aforementioned deadlines will be met without complication, the Commission required digital wireless carriers to submit Quarterly Reports fifteen days after the end of each quarter.² Public Service and Enterprise now file this instant report with the Commission.

I. Carrier Background

Public Service provides analog and digital CMRS wireless service in the Columbus, GA/AL MSA; Georgia 6 – Spalding; Alabama 5 – Cleburne; Alabama 8 – Lee; Georgia 5 – Haralson; and Georgia 9 – Marion RSAs; and the Anderson, SC; Anniston, AL; and Columbus, GA BTAs.³ Enterprise provides broadband Personal Communications Service ("PCS") in the B115 – Dothan, AL; B334 – Opelika, AL; B006 – Albany, GA; and B237 – LaGrange, GA

¹In the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, *Fourth Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 94-102, 15 FCC Rcd 25216, 65 Fed. Reg. 82293 (December 28, 2000), ("*Fourth Report and Order*").

²*Id.*

³Stations KNKA415 (CMA153B), KNKN872 (CMA376B1), KNKN913 (CMA376B2), KNKN883 (CMA376B3), KNKN687 (CMA311B2), KNKN932 (CMA314B2), KNKN934 (CMA375B2), KNKN976 (CMA379B1), KNLG210 (BTA016F), KNLH422 (BTA017D), and KNLH421 (BTA092F).

BTAs.⁴ As detailed below, and as has been acknowledged by the Commission in its grant of both Public Service's and Enterprise's request for waiver of Commission Rule 20.18(c) until December 31, 2003, compliance with the Commission's June 30, 2002 deadline was impractical.⁵ By way of background, as with most small rural carriers, the decision on which digital technology to deploy was essentially mandated by the technology decision of its primary roaming partners in the nearby major markets. In Public Service's case, these markets are primarily influenced by the Atlanta, GA MSA. At the time Public Service began rollout of its digital migration, its primary roaming partner, the B-side licensee in the Atlanta market (BellSouth, now Cingular Wireless ("Cingular")) had already deployed TDMA digital.

As the Commission is well aware, during the past twenty-four (24) months, the two major carriers utilizing TDMA technology (Cingular and AT&T) announced their plans to migrate their TDMA deployments to a totally different, non-compatible digital technology. At the end of December, US Cellular reported having decided to migrate its remaining TDMA markets to CDMA digital technology. The Cingular/AT&T decisions led to the announcements by virtually all major cellular infrastructure providers, including Lucent Technologies ("Lucent") (Public Service's infrastructure provider), of plans to cease development of new features and functionalities for their TDMA infrastructure equipment. During the Fourth Quarter of 2001, Public Service and Enterprise each filed requests for waiver of the Commission's December 31, 2001 and June 30, 2002 deadlines, until December 31, 2003.⁶ The Companies met with the Commission regarding this issue.⁷ Further, Public Service filed a supplement to its waiver request to answer questions asked by Commission staff during the aforementioned meeting.⁸ As

⁴Stations KNLF545 (BTA115), KNLF546 (BTAB334), KNLF547 (BTA237) KNLF548 (BTAB006).

⁵ In the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, *Order*, CC Docket No. 94-102, DA 02-1540 (rel. June 28, 2002). ("Order"). (Granting separately Public Service's and Enterprise's request for waiver of the rule until December 31, 2003.)

⁶ See Petition of Public Service Cellular, Inc. for Waiver of Section 20.18(c) of the Commission's Rules and the Deadlines Established in the *Fourth Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 94-102, FCC 00-436 (December 21, 2001). See also Enterprise Wireless PCS, LLC for Waiver of Section 20.18(c) of the Commission's Rules and the Deadlines Established in the *Fourth Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 94-102, FCC 00-436 (December 31, 2001).

⁷ Letter from Kurtis & Associates, P.C. to William Caton, Acting Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission, Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, CC Docket No. 94-102, DA 02-640 (disclosure of meeting held on March 25, 2002 with representatives of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology) (March 25, 2002).

⁸ Letter from Kurtis & Associates, P.C. to William Caton, Acting Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission, Information Sheet, CC Docket No. 94-102, DA 02-640, FCC 00-436 (April 8, 2002).

noted above, the Commission granted both Public Service and Enterprise waiver of Commission Rule 20.18(c) until December 31, 2003.

II. Access to 911 Through TTY Devices

A. Development Activities

While Commission action on their waiver requests were pending, and through June 30, 2002, the Companies have not proceeded with development activities.

B. Testing and Deployment Activities

While Commission action on their waiver requests were pending, and through June 30, 2002, the Companies did not proceed with any market-specific testing. However, even if the networks were TTY-compatible, the lack of available TTY-compliant TDMA handsets to Public Service or Enterprise would have precluded the initiation of testing on the Companies' networks.

Over the next eighteen months, the Companies will work towards implementing an alternative digital technology by December 31, 2003. Once the migration has been completed, any new digital network will be compatible with TTY devices.

III. Conclusion

Public Service and Enterprise have each been granted a waiver of the Commission's June 30, 2002 deadline for compliance with 47 C.F.R. 20.18(c), until December 31, 2003. Because of the announced abandonment of TDMA by the Companies' roaming partners, Public Service is preparing to migrate its network to an alternate digital technology that will not only meet the TTY-compatibility requirements but will also be capable of meeting the other FCC-mandated capabilities. When Public Service makes its migration to a new digital technology, that technology will be deployed in a mode fully compatible with TTY devices. As required, under the Commission's recent *Order*, the Companies will provide the Commission with quarterly updates on the status of development and deployment, as advised by their infrastructure and handset vendors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Public Service Cellular, Inc.
Enterprise Wireless PCS, L.L.C.

Dated: July 15, 2002

/S/ Anna E. Ward

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Their Attorneys

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, LaWanda Y. Tyson, a secretary with the law firm of Kurtis & Associates, P.C., do hereby certify that I have this 15th day of July 2002, filed the foregoing “REPORT TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ON CARRIER EFFORTS TOWARD ATTAINING DIGITAL TTY ACCESSIBILITY, AND THE STATUS OF THE VARIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS, AS PROVIDED BY CC DOCKET NO. 94-102, IN THE MATTER OF REVISION OF THE COMMISSION’S RULES TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY WITH ENHANCED 911 EMERGENCY CALLING SYSTEMS” electronically with the Federal Communications Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System. I have also filed a copy of this report with the Federal Communications Commission’s copy contractor, Qualex International. In addition, a copy of this report has been provided to Melinda Littell of the Commission’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

/S/ LaWanda Y. Tyson
LaWanda Y. Tyson